(a) whether the Ministry has evolved a mechanism to study the problems being faced by industry from time to time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) and (b) To study the problems of industry and formulate strategies, periodical meetings are held with the Apex/specific industrial associations, existing and potential investors etc. Besides, there are formal institutional mechanisms in place to ensure continuous dialogue with trade and industry. These include the establishment of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council. This is an apex body to identify problems and constraints faced by the industry and provide inputs for policy making as well as suggest measures for enhancing competitiveness of Indian Industry.

(c) Does not arise.

SEZ in Bellary, Hubli and Mysore

4365. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested to set up Special Economic Zones in Bellary, Hubli and Mysore in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what is the present status of the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Imposition of Strict norms for import of Indian shrimp by Japan

4366. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan, like the EU, has imposed strict standards for import of shrimp from India, following the presence of banned antibiotics in some consignments; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that shrimps exported to Japan are free from banned antibiotics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V. K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) The Quarantine Authorities of the Japan Health Ministry (JHA) have started random checking of all the imported shrimp consignments of aquaculture origin, including those from India, to ascertain the presence of banned antibiotics, especially Nitrofuran group and its metabolites. Japanese authorities have also decided that aquaculture shrimp consignments of Indian origin exported to Japan may be accompanied by a certificate from a Government of India approved laboratory stating that Nitrofuran or its metabolites are not detected in the product.

(b) To cope up with the similar situation being faced for export of fish & fishery products to countries of the European Union, the Government had banned the use of certain antibiotics in aquaculture and processing for export in July, 2002. MPEDA, Export Inspection Council of India (EIC) and and other Government agencies are striving hard through workshops, media campaigns, etc. to educate the acqua farmers, processors, and others not to use the banned antibiotics and other drugs in the culture and processing of marine products. Government has helped MPEDA to set up laboratories with latest equipments in all coastal States to test the samples of fish & fishery products to the desired levels to ensure that the products exported to various countries, including Japan, are free of contaminants due to microbiological and chemical reasons.

Imposition of non-tariff barriers by developed countries

4367. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that non-tariff barriers imposed by developed countries are creating a lot of problem to the exporters;

(b) if so, whether India contemplate any appropriate steps in the light of the above unfair and non-transparent measures taken by developed countries of the world; and

(c) which are the main developed countries who are imposing non-tariff barriers against India?